

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging dependent claims 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 20 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. As Applicant maintains that the remaining claims are also allowable, as explained below, we are not amending any dependent claims in independent form.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 10 and 11 are patentable over Rhoda (US 3,840,319) because Rhoda does not disclose a semi-rigid body with the specific hardness range claimed by Applicant, and such a hardness range is not an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art. A materials choice is obvious if it is switching from wood or metal to plastic, but keeping the same function. In this case, the materials choice depends on the range of flexibility of the insert material, and functionality is affected by that choice. The range allows for enough rigidity to maintain the shape of the insert despite the stress of the molding process, and enough flexibility to be manipulated to remove the insert afterwards. This range is not an obvious choice to one of ordinary skill in the art and the Examiner has not provided any evidence of obviousness to support the rejection.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 12 are patentable over Rhoda in view of Jester (US 3,503,583) because Rhoda does not disclose a base surface that forms a perimeter lip and there is no teaching to combine Jester with Rhoda. Jester is a patent for concrete forms, an area unrelated to boat molds. Jester does not even describe the base of the plastic pans as forming a perimeter. The Examiner has not provided evidence of any teaching to combine Rhoda with Jester. Further, even if there was a teaching to combine Rhoda and Jester, the lack of a teaching in Jester to form a perimeter from the base of the plastic pan means the combination of Rhoda and Jester does not teach the present invention. Additionally, the plastic pans in Jester do not form perimeters that

create a seal, as with the present invention. The combination of Rhoda and Jester do not teach the present invention, therefore this rejection fails.

Claims 15, 17 and 22 are patentable over Rhoda in view of Hordis (US 5,601,049) because the combination of Rhoda and Hordis does not create the present invention. Hordis does not teach applying a gel coat to an insert or applying laminate layers around the sidewalls of the insert. Therefore, the rejection of claims 15, 17 and 22 based on the combination of Rhoda and Hordis fails.

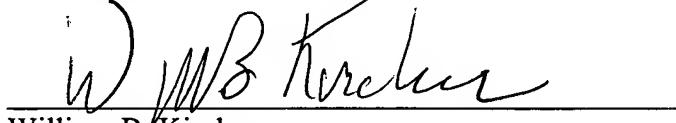
Claims 18, 19 and 21 are patentable over Rhoda in light of Hordis and Jester for all the reasons explained above. The combination of Jester with Rhoda and/or Hordis is not taught in any reference and the art of concrete formation is too far removed from the art of boat hull construction to be relevant to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, the basis for the rejection of claims 18, 19 and 21 fails.

Applicants' request for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) as well as Applicants' petition fee are enclosed herewith and filed simultaneously with this response.

If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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